

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 8 and 30 to 94 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. Please amend Claims 1, 4 to 7, 9, 12 to 14, 19, 21 and 22 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A facing material comprising a flame resistive fiber and a filler, wherein the flame resistive fiber has a sheet-like shape with first and second surface sides, and wherein the flame resistive fiber comprises:

a waterproofing layer is formed by impregnating a portion of the first surface side ~~said flame resistive fiber~~ with said filler, and

a flame resistive layer which comprises a portion of the second surface side which is not impregnated with said filler ~~is made of said flame resistive fiber not impregnated with the filler, and said flame resistive layer is located in a surface of said facing material.~~

2. (Original) The facing material according to claim 1, wherein said filler is a thermoplastic resin.

3. (Original) The facing material according to claim 1, wherein said waterproofing layer and said flame resistive layer are flexible.

4. (Currently Amended) The facing material according to claim 1, wherein a water-absorption preventing layer is provided on the second surface side ~~a surface of said~~

~~flame resistive layer.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The facing material according to claim 4, wherein said water-absorption preventing layer is provided at least in a peripheral portion of the second surface side ~~surface of said flame resistive layer.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The facing material according to claim 4, wherein the facing material overlaps with a plurality of facing materials such that the facing material has an unexposed region, which is a region where the first surface side is not exposed to the outside, and an exposed region, which is a region where the first surface side is exposed to the outside ~~when partially overlapping a plurality of said facing material, an area of said water-absorption preventing layer is equal to or smaller than of an area of an unexposed region, where the unexposed region is a region of the surface of said facing material exposed to outside and an exposed region is a region of the surface said facing material not exposed to outside.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The facing material according to claim 6, wherein said water-absorption preventing layer is provided on a region of the second surface side which overlaps with one of the plurality of facing materials ~~in an overlapped region of the surface of said flame resistive layer.~~

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The facing material according to claim 4, wherein said water-absorption preventing layer is formed by impregnating the filler in a part of the second surface side ~~said flame resistive layer~~.

10. (Original) The facing material according to claim 6, wherein said unexposed region has a fixing assistant means.

11. (Original) The facing material according to claim 10, wherein said fixing assistant means is a metal plate or a metal foil.

12. (Currently Amended) The facing material according to claim 6, wherein at least a part of the ~~surface of said waterproofing layer~~ first surface side in said unexposed region has an adhesion means.

13. (Currently Amended) The facing material according to claim 6, wherein at least a part of the ~~surface of said flame resistive layer~~ second surface side in said unexposed region has an adhesion means.

14. (Currently Amended) The facing material according to claim 1, wherein the ~~surface of said water proofing layer side~~ first surface side has a surface protective layer.

15. (Original) The facing material according to claim 14, wherein said surface protective layer has a surface protective film.

16. (Original) The facing material according to claim 14, wherein said surface protective layer has a metal plate or metal foil.

17. (Original) The facing material according to claim 16, wherein said metal plate or said metal foil is sealed with the filler.

18. (Original) The facing material according to claim 6, wherein the surface protective layer is provided in a region other than at least a part of said unexposed region.

19. (Currently Amended) The facing material according to claim 6, wherein at least a part of the ~~surface of said waterproofing layer side~~ first surface side in said unexposed region has irregularities.

20. (Original) The facing material according to claim 4, wherein said water-absorption preventing layer has irregularities.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of storing a the facing material according to claim 1, comprising:

winding storing the facing material in a ~~state of winding it in a~~ longitudinal direction; and

transporting or storing the facing material in its wound state ~~when it is transported or kept.~~

22. (Currently Amended) A method of storing a the facing material according to claim 1, comprising:  
stacking a plurality of facing materials such that the same surface of each of the plurality of facing materials faces the same direction; and  
transporting or storing the stacked facing materials ~~storing the facing material in a state of stacking it in the same direction when it is transported and kept.~~

23. (Withdrawn, Original) A manufacturing apparatus for the facing material according to claim 1, comprising a degassing means and a heating means, wherein a stacked body comprising a covering means made of flame resistive fibers and a sheet member of a thermoplastic resin is heated while degassing a space between the covering means and the sheet member to closely fix each other.

24. (Withdrawn, Original) A manufacturing apparatus for the facing material according to claim 1, comprising a pressing means and a heating means, wherein a stacked body comprising a covering means made of flame resistive fibers and a thermoplastic resin is heated and pressed to closely contact each other.

25. (Withdrawn, Original) A manufacturing method for the facing material according to claim 1, comprising stacking a covering means made of flame resistive fibers and a sheet member of a thermoplastic resin and heating them while degassing a space between the covering means and the sheet member to closely contact and fix each other.

26. (Withdrawn, Original) A manufacturing method for the facing material according to claim 1, comprising arranging a covering means made of flame resistive fibers and a thermoplastic resin, heating, and pressing them to closely contact and fix each other.

27. (Withdrawn, Original) A method for installing a facing material, comprising fixing the facing material to a roof substrate or an external wall by a fixing member, wherein said facing material is a facing material according to claim 1.

28. (Original) A construction comprising a facing material fixed to a roof substrate or an external wall by a fixing member, wherein said facing material is a facing material according to claim 1.

29. (Withdrawn, Original) A photovoltaic power-generating apparatus, comprising a solar cell module and a facing material according to claim 1, wherein the facing material is installed in a portion not provided with the solar cell module on a plane in which the solar cell module is installed.

30 to 94. (Cancelled).